

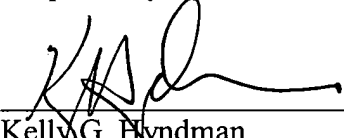
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
DIVISIONAL OF 09/437,246
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REMARKS

Claim 45 recites the direction of the sealing. According to this embodiment, because the packing member has a hole, the sealing direction is substantially in a direction in which the valve member is urged against the packing member. On the other hand, in the structure of Barinaga et al. (USP 5,777,646) the sealing direction is in lateral, or horizontal direction. In addition, the instant invention is distinguishable from the valve structure taught in Barinaga et al. because an inner part of the protruding rim 34 of the invention comes into contact with the ink supply needle of the printing apparatus and seal same. The requirement is well-supported by the drawings, and that the diameter of the hole of the packing member is smaller than the diameter of the ink supply needle.

Entry and consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-44 and 46-49 are canceled.

The claims are amended as follows:

45. (Amended) An ink supply system for a printing apparatus providing ink to a printing head through a tapered ink supply needle, said ink supply system capable of providing ink contained in an ink chamber to the print head through the ink supply needle, comprising:

an ink channel for providing ink from said ink chamber to the print head of the printing apparatus;

a first member provided at said ink channel, forming a part of said ink channel for allowing a flow of ink, said first member sealing the ink supply needle of the ink printing apparatus by fitting therewith; and

a second member contained in said ink channel elastically abutting against said first member in a direction which is the same as a direction of the sealing by said first member with said second member, said second member selectively opening and closing said ink channel in conjunction with the ink supply needle.

Claims 50-56 are added as new claims.